

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 15 have been amended to correct minor informalities and objections raised by the Examiner and to further clarify the claimed invention. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to the Applicants representative during the April 5, 2006 telephone interview with the Examiner. During the interview, the Examiner and Applicants' Representative discussed claims 1 and 7 in view of Mirashrafi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,096) and Busey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,708). Applicants have amended the claims as discussed with the Examiner and to clarify the claimed subject matter.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Busey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,708); and claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11-13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mirashrafi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,096) in view of Busey. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 11 have been amended to clarify that the IRC server uses the IRC protocol to handle both the control message and a chatting message together. As discussed during the telephone interview, the combination of Busey and Mirashrafi fail to teach or suggest this feature of the claims.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 11 have also been amended to clarify that the collaborative browsing client, creates a control message corresponding to a synchronization updating event when the event occurs while said client is connected to a Web server to conduct Web surfing, after said collaborative browsing session is opened, and then sending the created control message to said IRC server over a network. As discussed during the interview, Busey fails to teach or suggest this feature of the claims and Mirashrafi fails to remedy the deficiency. Specifically, during the interview, the Examiner indicated that an "event" could be merely surfing the web and alleged that Busey disclosed such a feature. As clarified, claims 1, 7, and 11 now recite a synchronization updating event.

Additionally, the sending of an HTTP link to an IRC server was discussed during the interview. Applicants respectfully submit that an HTTP link is not a control message. Specifically, a control message provides controls the participating client in the collaborative

browsing session. In contrast, an HTTP link merely provides a suggested link to a user. Therefore, an HTTP link is not analogous to the control message recited in claims 1, 7, and 11.

Claims 2-6, 8-10, and 12-16 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1, 7, and 11 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1, 7, and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.


Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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